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DAVE LANG  
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT  
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO 92-03

IN RE        PROCEDURES FOR SPECIAL INTEREST/  
HIGH PROFILE PROCEEDINGS

WHEREAS, the Florida Supreme Court has said that "a trial court has the inherent power to control the conduct of the proceedings before it, and it is the trial court's responsibility to protect a defendant in a criminal prosecution from inherently prejudicial influences which threaten fairness of [the] trial and the arrogation of constitutional rights," State ex rel Miami Herald Publishing Co v McIntosh 340 So 2d 904,909 (Fla 1976), and

WHEREAS, special interest/high visibility proceedings require procedures and special accommodations to ensure full access without compromising the right of any litigant to a fair and orderly trial; It is therefore,

ORDERED THAT.

I        CHIEF JUDGE DETERMINATION

The Chief Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit shall determine when a proceeding is of such great public interest or high profile that special procedures are necessary. When a proceeding is designated as being great public interest/high profile, the Court Administrator will be instructed to implement the procedures set further in this order.

II       IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- 1)       The Court Administrator is authorized to develop an implementation plan to achieve the goals of this order. Copies of the plan shall be available to the press and public.
- 2)       The Court Administrator is authorized, on behalf of the court, to seek the advice, assistance and expertise of any private or governmental entity in the development and implementation of the plan.

### III COURT PRESS OFFICER

The Court Administrator (or his designee) shall serve as the court's press officer. This person shall serve as the director of the media center and will act as the liaison between the court and the media. Additionally, this person shall issue press credentials to members of the media who present a photo-identification card or other satisfactory proof that they are bona fide members of the media.

### IV ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDIA COMMITTEE

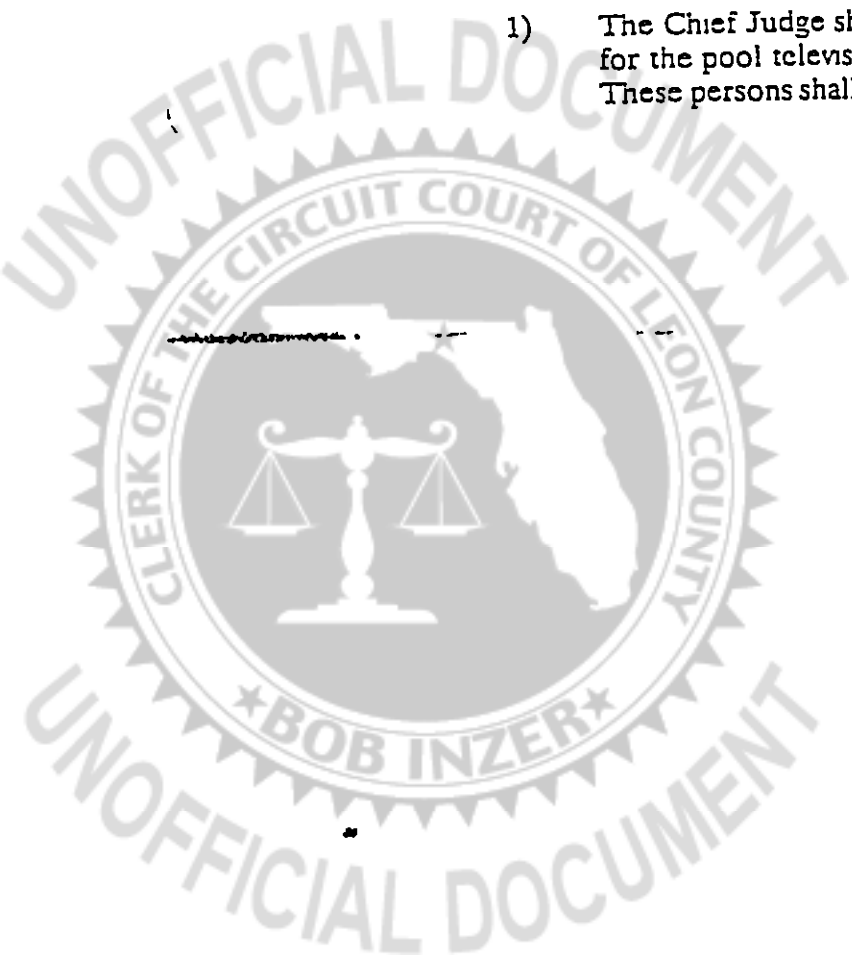
- 1) The court's press officer, upon proper notice, shall convene a meeting of interested media representatives for the purpose of establishing a media committee
- 2) The media committee, consisting of at least one representative from the video, audio and print media, shall designate (a) the pool television camera person for coverage inside the courtroom, (b) the pool still photographer for coverage inside the courtroom, (c) the pool television camera person for coverage outside the courtroom, and (d) the pool still photographer for coverage outside the courtroom. Additionally, the media committee shall allocate, from among those holding court-issued press credentials, courtroom seating assignments in the area reserved for media representatives. This allocation shall be made on a daily basis and shall be reported to the court's press officer who shall provide identification which will entitle the bearer to enter the courtroom and utilize the reserved area.

### V MEDIA CENTER

The Chief Judge shall designate an area to serve as a media center. This facility, under the supervision of the court's press officer, will be open during normal working hours to media representatives with court-issued press credentials. The center will accommodate monitors and other equipment provided by the media to permit coverage of the proceeding by media representatives who are unable to obtain seating in the courtroom. Duplicate copies of exhibits and other court documents will be released in this facility by the press officer. Also, space for interviews will be provided in the media center.

### VI COURTROOM ADMITTANCE

- 1) The Chief Judge shall designate a specified location in the courtroom for the pool television camera person and the pool still photographer. These persons shall comply strictly with the Supreme Court's Standards




of Conduct and Technology Governing Electronic Media and Still Photography Coverage of Judicial Proceedings.

- 2) The Chief Judge shall designate a specified location outside the courtroom for a pool television camera person and a pool still photographer. No other television cameras, still cameras, or other broadcasting or recording equipment will be permitted in the courthouse with the exception of (a) media covering other judicial proceedings, and (b) equipment located in the media center.
- 3) The Chief Judge shall designate a specified number of seats in the public area of the courtroom for the following categories of individuals (a) parties' family friends and court designees, (b) media representatives, and (c) general public. Category "a" will be regulated by the trial court's bailiff, category "b" will be allocated by the media committee
- 4) Admission to the public section of the courtroom shall be gained by presenting a pass which shall be issued in the Court Administrator's Office on the third floor of the Leon County Courthouse, on a first come-first-admitted basis. The pass shall be valid for one session only, i.e. morning, afternoon or evening. With the exception of court-ordered recesses during a regular session, an observer must surrender the pass on leaving the courtroom.

VII OTHER NEEDS

- 1) By arrangement with the court's press officer, the courtroom will be made available to the media before the proceeding for installation of necessary equipment and cables.
- 2) All cables must be located so as not constitute a safety hazard or an obstruction to pedestrian traffic.
- 3) Satellite trucks must be parked in an area designed by the City of Tallahassee. Information on this topic may be obtained from the court's press officer.

DONE AND SIGNED in Chambers at Tallahassee, Florida, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1992

  
WILLIAM L. GARY  
CHIEF JUDGE